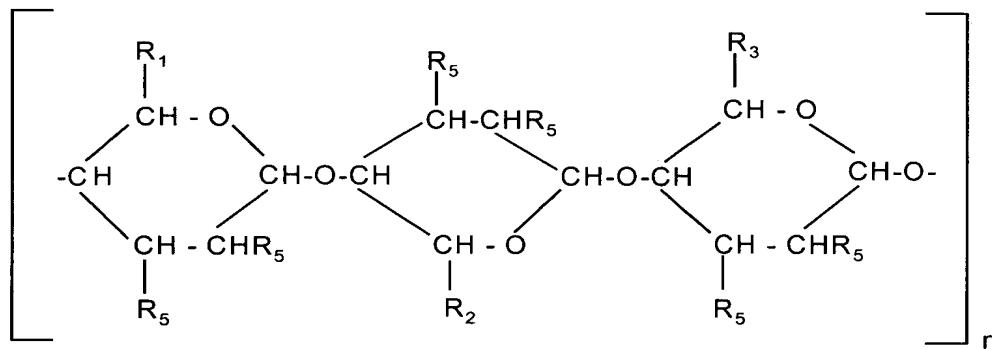


Abstract of the Disclosure

A polymeric composition based on PVA is claimed and is substantively composed of

- a) from 50 to 99.9% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol with an average MW of from 5 000 to 25 000 and with a degree of hydrolysis of from 79 to 99.9 mol%, where the polyvinyl alcohol may contain carboxy groups or polyglycol units in the molecule, and
- b) from 0.1 to 50% by weight, preferably from 0.1 to 15% by weight, and particularly preferably from 0.1 to 10% by weight, of one or more polysaccharides of the formula



where

R₁, R₂, R₃ are H, CH₂OH, COOMe, COOMe, COOR₄, CONHR₆, or CH₂OSO₃Me, and Me is Na, K, NH₄, Mg, or Ca,

n is a number from 20 to 20 000, preferably from 100 to 10 000, in particular from 1 000 to 9 000,

R₄ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, preferably methyl,

R₅ is OH, NHCOCH₃, H or OCOCH₃ and

R₆ is H, COCH₃, or C₁-C₄, preferably methyl.

This polymeric composition is suitable for producing capsules.